

REMARKS

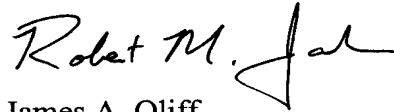
Claims 1-3, 6-12, 15-18 and 31-34 are pending in this application. Claims 4-5, 13-14 and 19-30 are canceled. By this Amendment, claims 4 and 13 are canceled. Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment to cancel claims 4 and 13 under 37 C.F.R. §1.312.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during a December 29, 2006 telephone conference. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for the indication in that telephone conference that this §312 Amendment canceling claims 4 and 13 would be entered. Applicant also respectfully notes that claim 14 was previously canceled, and that the Notice of Allowance incorrectly identifies this claim as being allowed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application remains in condition for allowance for pending claims 1-3, 6-12, 15-18 and 31-34. Entry of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.312 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RMJ/tls

Date: January 4, 2007

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